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number of volumes, published by the Smithsonian Institution in the city of Washington.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Smithsonian Society for their donation.

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Mr. Mulvany, in pursuance of a resolution passed at the last preceding meeting of the Academy, having read a Paper,\* giving an account of a large collection of antiquities, presented to the Museum by the Commissioners of Public Works, and others:—

Sir William Betham, in allusion to the large metallic casting which formed a part of the collection, observed, that it bore the arms of Castile and Leon, the double-headed eagle and the Imperial Crown of Germany. There were also the two Spanish pillars, in allusion to the pillars of Hercules. It must, in his opinion, have belonged to the period of Charles V., or his son Philip, when he was King of Spain and Emperor of Germany at one and the same time.

Mr. Kelly said that the communication made by Mr. Mulvany being one of so much importance, as regarded the ancient history of Ireland, ought to be referred to the Council of the Academy, with a view to its publication. He therefore begged to propose a resolution to that effect, and at the same time a vote of thanks to the Board of Works for their valuable donation. They lived in times when discoveries of an extraordinary kind were of almost daily occurrence. Through discoveries in Australia and California great treasures were making their way into England; and he was proud to say that Mr. Mulvany's "diggings" bid fair to add to the historical lore of Ireland treasures as valuable as anything which had been heretofore contributed.

Dr. Petrie had great pleasure in seconding the motion. He

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\* The particulars of this donation and Mr. Mulvany's remarks will appear as an Appendix.

said it would be impossible for any one to speak too highly of the value of the immense collection of antiquities presented that evening to the Academy by the Commissioners of Public Works. By this valuable donation they had acquired a great number of specimens quite new to their Museum; and those not new were, in many instances, more perfect than what they already possessed. In fact it was realizing a vision which he had formed in his mind many years ago—that Ireland might yet be the depository of the finest collection of Celtic and mediæval remains of any country in the world—and after that night he could scarcely entertain a doubt, there being now only one European collection which could compete with theirs, that his vision would shortly be realized. He might mention one fact with regard to the large number of iron articles presented on that as well as on former occasions,—that until within a few years back there never had been preserved in any collection an iron antique of any kind. Nothing was known with respect to their age; and the antiquarians of those days, though they attached great importance to objects of bronze, gold, and silver, treated iron with contempt; the result was, that they could learn nothing whatever of the state of society, so far as weapons were concerned, when the use of bronze was discontinued. A discovery, not sufficiently appreciated at the time, in one of the Crannoge islands, in the county of Meath, was the first circumstance which gave them a notion of the value of these things. The iron articles found at Dunshaughlin being associated with ornamented antiques, of which the age had been previously ascertained, at once supplied them with a clue to their own antiquity, and the conclusion then formed had since been fully borne out by the collections forwarded by the Shannon Commissioners. For a long period, a sword in his own collection was the only iron article preserved in any Irish museum; and on one occasion, when he added to it an iron hatchet which he believed ancient, he was induced to withdraw it by the ridicule it created, and the article was ultimately

lost. He would like, if he had the power, to express the deep sense of thankfulness which he felt, and which he was sure the Academy must also feel, to those gentlemen for doing a thing which had added so much to the interest of the Museum, and, he might say, even to the wealth of the city, for he looked forward to the period when their collection would attract educated strangers from all parts of Europe, as they knew it had already done from England. They were well aware that it had furthered the progress of art and manufacture by the impetus which it had given to the reproduction of ancient ornaments; and it would, perhaps, illustrate the state of society in the British islands more fully than could be attempted to be done in England, for the people of that country must often look to them for correct information upon that subject. The value of this collection was beyond estimation, and he had, therefore, cordially seconded the vote of thanks proposed by Mr. Kelly, as an expression of the gratitude they felt towards the Commissioners for their truly valuable donation.

Motion carried with acclamation.

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The Hon. George Gough moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Gray for his great kindness in placing his own private collection at the disposal of the Academy; to the other gentlemen connected with the Board of Works; and also to Dr. Connor; who had permitted their antiquities to be exhibited.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Petrie, and adopted unanimously.